

Top Secret



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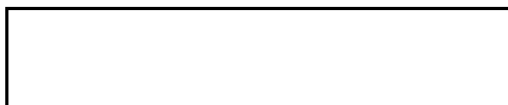
DIRECTORATE OF
INTELLIGENCE

Central Intelligence Bulletin

State Dept. review completed

Top Secret

20 February 1968
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Approved For Release 2003/04/18 : CIA-RDP79T00975A010800150001-5

Approved For Release 2003/04/18 : CIA-RDP79T00975A010800150001-5

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Belgium-France: The recent Belgian-French aircraft deal involves only about half the number of Mirage 5 fighters originally sought by Brussels.

Foreign Minister Harmel told US officials that only about 50 Mirages will be purchased. They probably will cost about \$70 million. The Belgians had been negotiating for about 105 aircraft, which would have cost about \$150 million. The money saved may be used to buy the Jaguar interceptor, an Anglo-French aircraft scheduled to go into production in the early 1970s.

Delivery of the Mirages should not place any strain on France's production capacity. Delivery schedules to Belgium have not been announced; earlier negotiations called for initial delivery in September 1969.

NOTES

Singapore: Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew's People's Action Party will have only nominal opposition in the elections on 13 April. Opposition candidates will run in only seven of Singapore's 58 constituencies. A complete sweep by Lee's party is likely because of the weakness of the opposing candidates--mainly independents--and a recent redrawing of some electoral districts to favor party candidates. The elections will enable Lee to infuse some needed new blood into the government but will lend further credibility to the opposition charge that Singapore is a one-party state.

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